

Title IV-E Child Welfare Education Program Fact Sheet

The Title IV-E Child Welfare Education Program (IV-E Program) is an educational program that is part of the Division of Family and Children Service's (DFCS) plan to develop an educated and stable workforce committed to DFCS' mission, vision, values and goals. It is one of a number of educational or enrichment activities that are designed to ensure that members of DFCS' workforce are prepared to deliver services professionally to the families of Georgia.

Who sponsors the Title IV-E Program?

The Title IV-E Program is a partnership between DFCS and the participating Georgia Schools of Social Work. The participating schools are: Albany State University, Dalton State College, Georgia State University, Savannah State University, University of Georgia and Valdosta State University. The partnership is guided by the regulations and requirements of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Families and Children (ACF). Funding for the Title IV-E Program is based on a funding model prescribed by ACF that consists of Federal funds and funds matched by the individual school of social work.

If an individual is selected for the Title IV-E Program, the Program pays for tuition, fees, books and mileage for persons currently employed by DFCS in Social Services or those who wish to have a career at DFCS in Social Services.

What are the requirements for participating in the Title IV-E Program?

The individual may be a current employee of DFCS or is someone who wishes to have a career at DFCS in Social Services. The individual must **first** be accepted into a participating Georgia School of Social Work. After being accepted into a social work program, the individual then applies online for the Title IV-E Program. The individual is required to participate in the Title IV-E Selection Process. If selected, the individual then becomes part of the Title IV-E Program at their respective school. For additional requirements and Program governance, please review the Student Agreement that may be found on this web site.

Which schools offer BSW and/or MSW degrees?

Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degrees are offered at: Albany State University, Dalton State College, Georgia State University, Savannah State University and the University of Georgia. Master of Social Work (MSW) degrees are offered at: Georgia State University, Savannah State University, University of Georgia and Valdosta State University.

Title IV-E Child Welfare Education Program Application Process

The application process for the Title IV-E Program is a **separate** process from the admission process to a school of social work. The Title IV-E Program application process is as follows:

1. Apply to the social work program at one of the participating schools. The links to the participating schools may be found on this web site on the home page:
<https://www.gadfcs.org/grant/cwg.jsp>
2. The link for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), required by most MSW programs is:
www.ets.org/gre
3. If you are **not** currently employed with DFCS in **social services** as a Social Services Protect and Placement Specialist (SSPPS- the position non-social service IV-E Program students **will be required** to take once they complete their degree program), then click on this link

<http://dhsjobs.dhs.ga.gov/SocialCaseManager/socialQuestionaryFinal.aspx> and:

- A. Read the “**Overview: Social Services Child Welfare Positions**” then answer “yes” to the question “Are you still interested in applying?”
 - B. You will be taken to the next tab with the **video “Life as a Case Manager.”** Watch the video in its entirety and at the end click “yes” to the question “Do you think this might be the job for you?”
 - C. You will then be taken to the “**Self-Assessment: Social Services Case Manager.**” Complete the assessment and click “Done” when you are finished.
 - D. Remember your score and what it says about your score and your fit for a position as a child welfare professional. You will need to bring that information with you to the IV-E Selection Process.
4. Once you have been accepted into a school of social work, then apply for the Title IV-E Program online at this web-site on the home page: <https://www.gadfcs.org/grant/cwg.jsp>
 5. The school will receive your Application via the Internet. **The school will give you an appointment for the selection process along with a list of documents to bring to the appointment.** We typically have more applicants for the Title IV-E Program than the schools have slots. We conduct a selection process with applicants as the way of determining who will be accepted into the Title IV-E Program. After the selection process is completed, the respective school of social work will notify the student about whether or not they have been accepted into the Title IV-E Program.

For Your Information (F.Y.I.)

- **It is possible to be accepted into a school of social work but not in the Title IV-E Program. If that is the case, the student is required to pay their own tuition.**

- **If you are applying for a BSW degree, you will not be eligible to participate in the Title IV-E Program until you are accepted into a social work program (usually in your junior or senior year).** If you have to take prerequisite classes before you can be accepted into a social work program, then you are responsible for paying for those classes.
- If you are a **current DFCS employee**, in addition to the application process outlined above, you will need to bring a completed **Staff Enrichment and Development (S.E.E.D.) application signed by your immediate supervisor and an approval authority to the selection process appointment.** The S.E.E.D. application and the list of approval authorities may be found on this web site on the home page.
- In addition to the S.E.E.D. application (**DFCS employees only**), all applicants are required to bring to the selection process appointment:
 - A. Consent for Release of Information
 - B. Criminal History Addendum
 - C. Student Agreement
 - D. Work Obligation Form
 - E. **All of these documents may be found on the Title IV-E web-site on the home page**
- **For all Title IV-E Program participants there is a work obligation to DFCS once you complete your social work degree.** For every academic year (typically 9 months) you receive IV-E funds, you are required to work a calendar year (12 months) for the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) in social services in a position of Social Services Protect and Placement Specialist (SSPPS) or higher. Failure to complete the work obligation will result in action being taken to recoup funds expended for the student's education. This includes, but is not limited to, collection/civil proceedings as deemed necessary. A letter will also be sent to the board that provides licensure, the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists, notifying them of your failure to fulfill your required work obligation.

Contact Information

- **DFCS**-contact L. Denise Edwards, MSW, Training & Development Specialist at 404-550-6822 or via email at l.denise.edwards@dhs.ga.gov for information about the Title IV-E Program
- For social work program information at the respective schools contact:
 1. Albany State University-Dr. Marilyn Spearman-(229) 430-4694; spearman@asurams.edu
 2. Dalton State College-Dr. Robin Cleeland-(706) 272-2682; rcleeland@daltonstate.edu
 3. Georgia State University-Dr. Robin Hartinger-Saunders-(404) 413-1060; rsaunders@gsu.edu
 4. Savannah State University-Dr. Shinaz Jindani-(912) 358-3251; jindanis@savannahstate.edu
 5. University of Georgia-Dr. Alberta Ellett-(706) 542-5409; aellett@uga.edu
 6. Valdosta State University-Dr. Manizur Miah-(229) 249-4893; mrmiah@valdosta.edu